GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4292
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
PROTECTION OF FISH SPECIES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large scale fishing has affected the marine eco-system drastically as reported in The Hindu dated March 8, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any effective measures for the protection of the fish species; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The report in Hindu indicates the negative impact on the marine eco-system caused by large scale fishing on a global scale. It is true that in many parts of the world depletion of catches and imposition of catch quota, closing of area, etc. have taken place. In the case of India, as against a projected fishable potential of 3.93 million tonnes, only about 3 million tonnes of marine fish is being exploited currently. As such, no drastic effect on our marine ecosystem has been reported.

(b) & (c): The Government with the aim of attaining sustainability and to minimize possible adverse effect on marine eco-system has made ample provisions for regulation of fishing in the Marine Fishing Regulation Act of Coastal States/ UTs. As per this, (a) Closed season is observed both on east and west coasts, (b) catching of endangered species is banned; (c) destructive fishing methods are prohibited, (d) outside the territorial waters, the Government of India has made letter of permission compulsory for entry into India`s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for fishing, (e) only Indian flag vessels are allowed to fish in the EEZ, (f) only resources specific fishing methods are permitted, (g) the total number of vessels that could be allowed in each resources specific category has been worked out and notified, and (h) an. Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee has been set up to oversee deep sea fishing activities at the Centre.